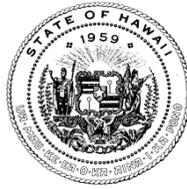


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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
9:40 AM  
State Capitol, 016

**SB2991**  
**RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY**

Senate Committee on Judiciary

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports S.B. 2991, relating to the reexamination requirements for driver's licenses revoked due to certain alcohol-related offenses.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes sections 291E-45, 291E-61, and 291E-61.5 to clarify the reactivation requirements for driver's licenses and vessel operator privileges following administrative revocation or court-ordered license suspension. It mandates proof of compliance, certified statements, successful completion of examination, and fee payment before reissuing a license.

The DOT supports this legislation as it enhances public safety by ensuring that individuals who have had their licenses revoked for alcohol-related offenses are thoroughly evaluated before being allowed to operate a vehicle again. This measure aligns with our ongoing efforts to reduce impaired driving and its devastating consequences on Hawaii's roadways.

Analysis of Hawaii's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) data from 2019 to 2023 reveals a troubling trend: 21 percent of drivers involved in fatal crashes (79 out of 369) were operating without a valid license, including those with suspended or revoked privileges. Even more alarming, among drivers with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.15 or higher, that figure surges to 64 percent (32 of 50), underscoring a dangerous intersection of impairment and non-compliance. By mandating a rigorous reexamination process, this bill introduces a critical safeguard—ensuring that individuals at the highest risk demonstrate their fitness to drive before these privileges are restored.

The proposed reexamination process will help identify any ongoing issues related to alcohol use and driving and ensure that these individuals fully understand their responsibilities as licensed drivers. This approach not only serves as a deterrent but also as an opportunity for rehabilitation and education.

Furthermore, this bill strengthens the administrative processes surrounding license reactivation, which will aid in more effective enforcement and monitoring of these high-risk drivers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES**  
**KA 'OIHANA LAWELawe KUPA**  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

ADMINISTRATION

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February 26, 2026

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

SUBJECT: S.B. No. 2991 - Relating To Highway Safety  
HEARING: Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 9:40 a.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD), offers **comments** on this bill for your committee's consideration. Pursuant to Section 6-402 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu, CSD Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) administers the motor vehicle registration program for the island of O'ahu. While CSD appreciates the intent of the proposed legislation, we have concerns regarding its application and its legal implications.

While CSD DMV supports the intent of the proposed request and efforts to enhance road safety, we provide the following comments regarding anticipated operational impacts associated with instituting and administering a written road safety examination based on the state traffic laws and City and County of Honolulu traffic ordinances for your consideration:

S.B. No. 2991 clarifies that when a court revokes a person's driver's license for certain offenses under HRS sections 291E-61 and 291E-61.5, the Examiner of Drivers shall not grant a new driver's license until the revocation period determined by the court has expired and the person undergoes reexamination pursuant to HRS section 286-108 (see Sections 2 and 3 of the bill).

From an administrative perspective, the bill provides helpful clarification. While DMV has historically required reexamination in certain revocation cases, express statutory language improves consistency and statewide application.

Implementation will require system updates to ensure that driver records reflect the mandatory reexamination requirement before relicensing. DMV systems must be programmed so that no license can be issued until both the revocation period has expired and examination requirements under HRS section 286-108 have been satisfied. Staff training and procedural updates will also be necessary to ensure uniform enforcement.

CSD also notes that clear court orders remain critical. The period of revocation must be expressly stated so DMV can accurately calculate eligibility for reexamination and relicensing. DMV does not have discretion to modify a court-ordered revocation and relies on precise judicial direction to ensure proper administration.

An adequate amount of time will be required to initiate communications and coordinate efforts with the State Department of Transportation, the State Judiciary, the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Information Technology, and the counties of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and Maui, regarding implementation of all necessary administrative procedures and updates; funding to support additional staffing; funding for information technology upgrades; and the establishment of data-sharing arrangements with the Judiciary.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on S.B. No. 2991.

Sincerely,

*for* Kimberly M. Hashiro  
Director



## Testimony of the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

### Senate Committee on Judiciary

March 4, 2026 9:40AM  
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

### SB2991 Relating to Highway Safety

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

The Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) **supports SB2991** which clarifies that persons whose driver's licenses have been revoked for certain alcohol-related offenses are required to undergo reexamination before the examiner of drivers may relicense the person.

This bill supports our goal of reducing traffic related deaths and serious injuries to zero by 2045. Traffic fatalities increased over twenty (20) percent in Hawaii, and over sixty (60) percent on Oahu, from 2024 to 2025. Nearly [a third of traffic deaths in Hawaii](#) are the result of impaired driving, where drivers have a Blood Alcohol Concentration of 0.08 or higher. This statistic puts Hawaii in the bottom quarter of all states with regard to impaired driving fatalities. Thus, reexamination puts further protocols in place to prevent potentially dangerous drivers from immediately returning to the roadways while ensuring they are aware of the rules and laws to operate a vehicle safely.

The OahuMPO is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on the island of Oahu responsible for carrying out a multimodal transportation planning process, including the development of a long-range (25-year horizon) metropolitan transportation plan, referred to as the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP), which encourages and promotes a safe, efficient, and resilient transportation system that serves the mobility needs of all people and freight (including walkways, bicycles, and transit), fosters economic growth and development, while minimizing fuel consumption and air pollution ([23 CFR 450.300](#)).

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

**SB-2991**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 10:25:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/4/2026 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2991 SB RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY.